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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MEMBERS OF RANDALLSTOWN DRUG RING CONVICTED OF CONSPIRACY
TO DISTRIBUTE CRACK COCAINE IN BALTIMORE AREA**

BALTIMORE, Maryland - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced that after a three-week jury trial before U.S. District Court Judge Marvin J. Garbis, a federal jury convicted the following individuals today of conspiring to distribute crack cocaine: Gregory Lamont Wilson, age 30, of Catonsville, Maryland; Edwin Lloyd Murray, age 22, of Cockeysville, Maryland; William Franco Heggins, age 24, of Pikesville, Maryland; and Derrick Lenwood Powell, age 21, of Cockeysville, Maryland.

Trial evidence showed that from September 2002 to July 2003 the defendants operated a crack distribution network based in the Randallstown area of Baltimore County from which they distributed crack cocaine to individuals throughout the Baltimore metropolitan area. The defendants obtained raw cocaine from various suppliers including Andre Clark, age 36, of Catonsville, Maryland who would transport it from Morrow, Georgia. Clark pleaded guilty on November 12, 2003 to conspiracy to distribute cocaine after he was arrested by Maryland State Police on the Baltimore Washington Parkway on May 23, 2003 with a kilogram of cocaine in his

vehicle. Clark is awaiting sentencing.

According to trial evidence, the defendants used various apartments and homes in Howard County, Baltimore County and Baltimore City as “drug houses” where they would store the cocaine and convert it into crack cocaine. The conspiracy involved the retail distribution of more than twenty-five kilograms of crack cocaine.

Also according to trial evidence, Wilson, Murray and Powell used the proceeds from their illegal distribution scheme to start and maintain a record company called Big Business Records, LLC, a company incorporated in Maryland and listed in Woodlawn, Maryland. During the period of the conspiracy, the defendants promoted and organized a concert on June 7, 2003 at the Five Seasons, located at 322 N. Charles Street, Baltimore, Maryland. The concert featured Powell as a rap performer under the name “D-Rack.” According to intercepted telephone calls played in court, the defendants provided their own security for the concert by arming themselves and placing firearms in vehicles leased for the occasion.

In addition to being convicted of conspiring to distribute crack cocaine, Wilson, Murray and Heggins were convicted of possessing firearms in relation to their drug trafficking scheme. Under federal law, the court must impose a five-year sentence of imprisonment to run consecutively to the sentence imposed for the conspiracy count. All four defendants face a sentence of up to life imprisonment for the conspiracy conviction.

The case is the result of an investigation by the Baltimore County Police Department in conjunction with the Maryland State Police, Baltimore City Police Department, Howard County Police Department, the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Drug Enforcement Administration. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Martin Clarke and Charles Peters.